

Status of Virginia Concerning 10 Key Issues Criteria

Issue	Green: Favorable	Yellow: Progress being made	Red: Requires attention
Care of the Guard: Support of Guard members and families is the responsibility of federal, state and local agencies. The National Governors Association (NGA) has quantified state support in an annual survey with the following six categories: state employee support; educational benefits; tax and financial benefits; family support programs; licensing, registration and fees; and protections, recognition and employment support.	State policy provides benefits in at least five of the six categories of support in the NGA survey.	State policy provides benefits in 3 – 4 of the survey categories	State policy provides benefits in 1 – 2 of the survey categories.
Severely injured support: States build support for severely injured coming to their states through programs such as “Heroes to Hometowns (H2H)” (Criteria revised in 2007)	Provides support through the partnership of State Joint Forces Headquarters of National Guard, State Veterans Affairs Directors and the State Chapter of the American Legion.	Actively involved, but no formal method for supporting severely injured.	Not actively involved in support of severely injured.
In-state tuition: Allow where assigned, and allow continuance of in-state rates upon reassignment.	Provides both access and continuance.	Provides access while in the state, but no continuance.	Provides neither.
School transition of military dependent children: States participate in an Interstate Compact providing a policy platform for resolving the challenges experienced by military children (Criteria revised in 2007, currently not rated)	State has committed to the Interstate Compact by statute and is an active participant in the Compact Commission	State is actively considering the Interstate Compact in its legislative session	State has not shown interest in considering the Interstate Compact.
Spouse employment: States accommodate the needs of transferring spouses, through compacts and nationally recognized standards for licensure in desirable careers, such as teaching, nursing and real estate and otherwise remove barriers to the transfer of professional licenses and certifications	Allows alternative certifications for teachers and nurses	Allows alternative certification for teachers or nurses	Has no alternative certification for teachers or nurses
Unemployment compensation for military spouses: Granting eligibility to trailing spouses	Provides to trailing military spouses.	Either provides on a case-by-case basis, or have a period of ineligibility	Does not authorize unemployment compensation to trailing military spouses.
Predatory Lending: DoD has established federal statute that limits the terms of payday, vehicle title and tax refund anticipation loans. Outside of federal banks, thrifts and credit unions, payday and vehicle title loans are overseen by state	State has a memo of agreement with DoD on enforcing the new rule	State is developing the ability to enforce the rule or has state rules that prohibit	State does not enforce the rule and does not have state statutes prohibiting

government agencies (Criteria revised in 2007)		payday and vehicle title loans	payday and vehicle title loans.
Voting: Coordinated support through electronic means to decrease the time needed to request and submit an absentee ballot. The 9 specific guidelines are: 45-day ballot transit time, elimination of the notary requirement, late registration procedures, special state write-in absentee ballot, reference to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act in the state election code, electronic transmission of election materials, expanded use of the federal write-in absentee ballot, emergency authority for chief election official, enfranchise citizens who have never resided in the U.S.	Meets 7 – 9 of the 9 guidelines.	Meets 4 – 6 of the 9 guidelines.	Meets 1 – 3 of the 9 guidelines.
Foreign Language Requirements: Foreign languages are important to national security and economic competitiveness. States join with the DoD to frame a language strategy to develop foreign language skills needed to keep the nation secure and a leader in the global market. (Criteria established in 2007, currently not rated)	State has developed a foreign language plan that optimizes resources from the business, education and community sectors , to include partnerships with military installations and the National Security Education Program, expands language learning in K-12 programs and higher education, and increases the capacity of foreign languages within the state.	State has engaged stakeholders, to include K-12 educators and administrators, parents groups, institutions of higher education, businesses, chambers of commerce, Federal agencies, and local heritage communities.	State government has not engaged in a dialogue with stakeholders within the state.
Accessible Support for Military Families: States mobilize every resource (military and civilian) through an integrated team to assist all military families with child care; resources for schools, teachers and youth; and to facilitate easy access to information, services and support	Governor recognizes initiatives and organizations within the state (such the Inter Service Family Assistance Committee) designed to coordinate and mobilize resources. State approach optimizes the available resources and makes them easily accessible.	National Guard, active and reserve units coordinate resources within the state to facilitate access.	Military and civilian community agencies do not coordinate resources or do not have ways of making them accessible to all military families.